

February 21, 2023

Re: Support S.B. No. 1047: AAC AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN CONTRACTS

Representative Linehan, Senator Maher and honorable members of the Committee on Children. I am Heather Tartaglia, Chief Program Officer at the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), which is one of six Regional Education Service Centers or RESCs in Connecticut. RESCs are nonprofit, fee-for-service, public education agencies. Our mission is to provide high quality, cost-effective education resources, programs, and services to the state's public schools and communities, including Early Childhood programs.

I ask you to support SB 1047 to help expedite this much needed network of services to Connecticut children from birth to grade school.

CREC participates in the Early Childhood RESC Alliance, which is a collective of early childhood initiatives and programs offered across the state through the six RESCs. These initiatives provide overall support to the field of early childhood and includes Head Start, preschool, school readiness, home visitation, Birth to Three, accreditation support for the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC), quality improvement supports, early childhood professional development and consultation, coaching and mentoring. This collective has the capacity to manage and implement programming locally and statewide. We work with programs that are state funded and non-state funded and bridge the gap between the two entities. The RESC Alliance works closely with the Office of Early Childhood to coordinate and provide services.

SB1047 will allow us to streamline our partnerships and allow the RESC Alliance to work more effectively. With greater efficiency, we can improve our collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood to provide for more intentional service and program planning across the state. Our work strengthens professional development services, technical assistance and evaluation, and program activities that not only benefit school districts, but also school readiness programs, child care centers, and group/family child care homes. With this partnership, we can also expedite the collection of data to identify the services families really need and to identify families who are not taking advantage of the free supports and resources available to them and their children.

Thank you for raising SB 1047. The passage of this important bill will improve our ability to more effectively support and strengthen families in Connecticut.

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For more information about the RESC Alliance visit www.rescalliance.org